

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.(Currently amended) A method of making an electret comprising:  
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment of a chamber onto a dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, said dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than  $10^{14}$  ohms-cm and being disposed in said controlled environment; and  
drying the article to remove the condensate,  
wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.

32.(Currently Amended) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:  
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment of a chamber onto a dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, the dielectric article comprising a nonconductive polymeric material, and the condensate comprising a polar liquid; and  
drying the article to form an electret exhibiting a persistent electric charge.

33.(Currently Amended) A method of making an electret comprising:  
altering at least one property of a controlled environment of a chamber so as to cause vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than  $10^{14}$  ohms-cm, said dielectric article being disposed in said controlled environment; and  
drying the article to remove the condensate,  
wherein the electret exhibits a persistent electric charge.

39.(Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 35, wherein the controlled environment further comprises a liquid, and the method further comprises:  
placing the article in the liquid; and

U.S.S.N. 09/548,892

decreasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 35, wherein altering the property comprises increasing the pressure on the atmosphere such that the vapor condenses on the article.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 35, wherein said altering comprises an adiabatic expansion.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 33, wherein the controlled environment further comprises a liquid, and the method further comprises altering a first property of the environment such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere.

52.(New) A method of making an electret in a chamber comprising a controlled environment comprising an atmosphere comprising vapor conditioned to a temperature of T2, the method comprising:

condensing the vapor from the atmosphere onto a dielectric article having a resistivity greater than  $10^{14}$  ohms-cm and a temperature T1; and  
drying the article to remove the condensate,  
the electret exhibiting a persistent electric charge.